



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 10, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Uintah County, Asphalt Ridge Mine, M/047/022, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 14, 2003  
Time of Inspection: about 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.  
Conditions: Partly cloudy, 80's  
Participants: Kim McDonald, Uintah County; Doug Jensen and Paul Baker, DOGM

## Purpose of Inspection:

The county is needing to install sediment ponds, so the purpose of the inspection was to look at the sites for these ponds and discuss any ideas about alternate locations or drainage control.

## Observations:

We discussed locations for two ponds near the north part of the property. Both would be in the vicinity of the area being used by the county to store, mix and load asphalt. According to an inspection memorandum from the Division of Water Quality, treatment is required for runoff from facilities like those at the Asphalt Ridge Mine, although the Water Quality inspector was not able to find evidence of off-site water quality or land degradation from any previous runoff.

The area for the first pond, shown on the left side of Photo 1, is next to the road leading to the processing plant and would be used to contain drainage from the plant and some adjacent areas. The pond would be mostly incised.

In the northeast part of the asphalt loading area, there is a small natural drainage where there used to be a culvert and where I had advised the operator to place a silt fence or

similar sediment control (Photo 2). The county had planned to place an embankment across this drainage to create an impoundment. Nearby, there is another area that was being graded in preparation for seeding this fall (Photo 3). This area is a natural depression and seemed like a logical place to put the pond. Because the depression is natural, there would be no chance of dam failure. The capacity would also be greatly increased compared to the location originally proposed. It was difficult to determine whether water from some parts of the disturbed area would flow to this area naturally or if drainage to the depression would need to be established.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The county needs to submit an amendment with information about the ponds, including location and design information, before building them. The ponds need to have spillways to reduce the risk of failure in the event of a large storm. Although the dams are likely to hold all runoff from most storms, any discharges would need to be sampled and tested and reported to the Division of Water Quality as part of the UPDES program. Depending on the design of the ponds and the likelihood for discharge, the county may need a permit to discharge. Any non-incised portion of a dam needs to be properly compacted and inspected as it being built.

With the completion of these ponds, runoff from most, if not all, of the mine and associated processing areas will be contained within the site. As discussed above, there will still be the potential for discharge from the ponds the county is proposing to build, but discharges are allowed assuming they meet UPDES requirements.

The Division previously released some reclaimed areas at the mine because they have met release requirements, and any runoff from these areas would no longer need to be contained on the mine site. The Division no longer has jurisdiction over these areas, and once an area is satisfactorily revegetated, the Division of Water Quality would normally not require treatment of the runoff.

PBB:jb

cc: Paul Felch, Uintah County Roads  
Bill Kraemer, Crown Asphalt Ridge

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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

M/047/022, Asphalt Ridge Mine, Uintah County

Inspection Dated: August 14, 2003; Report Dated: September 10, 2003



**Photo 1.** The area on the left foreground portion of this photo is where Uintah county has proposed to put one of the sediment ponds.



**Photo 2.** The drainage just up from the road is where the county had planned to put a second impoundment.



**Photo 3.** A natural depression being reclaimed where we discussed putting the second pond instead of the area shown in Photo 2.